

**ALWAYS PUT GOD FIRST**

*Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 25:4-9; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20*

*“Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men...Then they abandoned their nets and followed Him.”*

Today’s liturgy continues with the theme of discipleship from last Sunday. The theme of discipleship is at the core of the primary message of human salvation. God began His work of redemption by a divine self revelation to a man named Abram, who later underwent a name change as his relationship with God went on to a whole new level. Therefore, discipleship is a call to a changed relationship – it calls for a transformation of one’s way of life – out of beholding and embracing reality.

In today’s gospel, Jesus appears on the shore of the Sea of Galilee with a message of change. He announces that the kingdom of God is at hand. And He invites His listeners (you and me) to change our ways and believe in the Good News. As we noticed in the reaction of Peter, Andrew, James, and John; the change has to be immediate and forthwith. Thus, they left behind their father – their nets – their major and perhaps only source of income, their former way of life, to follow Jesus. They are now to become *fishers of men*, instead of *fishers of fishes* – their new trade is to draw people to Jesus by what they say and do.

Jesus demands three basic things of any would-be disciple. First He says, “Change your ways;” then again He says, “Believe in the Good News;” and finally He says, “Follow Me.” That indicates in no uncertain terms, that all three actions must be taken – repentance, which signifies “change of ways;” faith, which signifies “belief in the Good News;” and becoming another Christ in word and deed as we grow in relationship with Him, which means *follow Me*. Therefore, our discipleship with Jesus means we constantly must repent, deepen our faith in Him, and grow in relationship with Him. To repent means to choose how you and I are going to live our lives from now on – it is also a choice to trust and to make a personal commitment to live God’s way in the world. To repent is to always make a choice to put God first in all that we do in life. In all our schedules – working – shopping – entertainment – pleasure – business – we must always put God first. We must make our schedules around the times for Mass and personal/family prayers.

Our relationship with Jesus and our faith in Him, transform us daily as we grow to know Him better and experience Him more. We become more conscious of our failings on a regular basis and seek every opportunity for reconciliation with God and others. When you and I do this, we become better followers of Christ and our lives grow in grace day by day. Just like the apostles we gradually become better instruments in God’s hands.

St. Paul writes that the world today, as we know it, is passing away; and the time to get ready is now. He invites us to make haste to get ready – to stay detached from the material things of this world – to attach ourselves to the things of God. You and I must not lose focus on the reality of who we are, our purpose, or our mission as people of faith. We should have our eyes fixed on God so as to ensure that what we do enable us to manifest God’s divine plan of salvation in every place and time. We must heed the call of Jesus to repent of our former ways, and to follow Him to a life of eternal happiness.

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**

**PARISH NEWS**

**CONVERSION OF PAUL THE APOSTLE**

This Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Apostle Paul. Saint Paul is the Patron of the Missionary Society of St. Paul of Nigeria, to which the priests serving in our parish belong. Thus, as we celebrate this feast we encourage you to support the Missionary Society of St. Paul with your prayers and treasures. Thank you!

**CHILDREN’S MASS:** Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children’s Mass next Sunday. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children’s Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



**ATLANTIC CITY TRIP**

The Rosary Altar Society is sponsoring an Atlantic City trip on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. The cost is \$35 per person. For more information or reservations call Carolyn on 963-2622 or Dolly on 969-6575.



**OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM**

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office listed on the cover for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.



**ADULT FAITH FORMATION WEBSITE**

Have you checked out the Adult Faith Formation section of our website ([www.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org)) recently? There is new content each week to encourage frequent viewing. The “Weekly Justice Challenge” is a favorite of many!

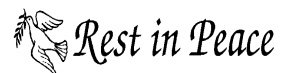
**ALTAR SERVERS:** Children who are in at least the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and who have received their First Communion may begin training to become Altar Servers. It is open to both boys and girls. All interested children should have a parent contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676).



**OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Are you interested in serving the parish but not sure how to put your energy & talents to good use? Whether it be something as simple as manning the reception area during religious education classes, periodically decorating our bulletin boards, preparing classrooms for use, making scripted calls to parents, cutting & preparing materials for classes, distributing program promotional flyers or helping with the setup & clean up for different events, we can use your help. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Marie Castaldo, Anthony DiPaolo, Angelo Capobianco and Giacomo (Jack) Bilancia.



# MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"In Your kindness remember me, because of Your goodness, O Lord." See the goodness in your spouse and in your marriage. Learn how on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, February 11/12. For more information, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wwmearchny.org](http://www.wwmearchny.org).

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

## WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

Sunday, February 12, 2012

10:15 a.m. Mass

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Reception immediately following: St. Patrick's Cathedral

Meeting Rooms, 51<sup>st</sup> Street & Madison Avenue

Celebration to honor the vocation of marriage and family. Reception to follow. Seating is limited. For further information or reservations call (646) 794-3190.

## ST. EUGENE'S SCHOOL

Open House

January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(914) 779-2956

Ongoing registration for any new families interested in attending.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**IONA GRAMMAR SCHOOL**, a private Catholic boys school for Grades K – 8, at 173 Stratton Road, New Rochelle, invites all interested parents and their sons to an **OPEN HOUSE** on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to Noon. For additional information, please call John Morash, Director of Admissions, on (914) 633-7744, ext. 18 or at [jmorash@ionagrammar.org](mailto:jmorash@ionagrammar.org).

The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.



**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Held after the 9 AM Mass on Mondays.

**EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION:** Held the First Friday of every month at 1 PM. Please join us for this most efficacious prayer.

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION:** Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 PM. All are encouraged to participate.



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$6550.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$4343.80.

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!

## REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH

*Remember, "We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share." Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!*



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, and Robert Mirsky.

## REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

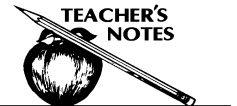
Consider giving a loved one or someone who has a special place in your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

## Public School Teachers' Appreciation Breakfast

The Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of New York invites all Catholic teachers in public schools to the Sixth Annual Communion Breakfast for Catholic Teachers in Public Schools. It will take place on **Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Riverview Caters, Hastings-on-Hudson. Join Catholic teachers from across the Archdiocese for Eucharist, sharing, and breakfast. A donation of \$20 is suggested.

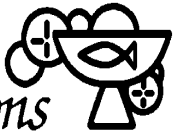
For more information, contact Helen Doon at (646) 794-2822 / [Helen.doon@archny.org](mailto:Helen.doon@archny.org) or Sr. Zelide Ceccagno at (914) 965-0490 / [cswestchester@nyfaithformation.org](mailto:cswestchester@nyfaithformation.org).

**RECITATION OF THE ROSARY:** Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.



JANUARY 22, 2012

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Saturday, January 21 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Joseph & Lucy Laudadio +

**Sunday, January 22**

8:30 AM Mary & Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM Josephine & Anthony Brucculeri +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Dorothy Grubiak +

**Monday, January 23**

Weekday

7:00 AM Jack Gronowski & William Bruder +

9:00 AM Reverend Patrick J. Mee +

**Tuesday, January 24**

Saint Francis de Sales, bishop & doctor of the Church

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Anthony DiPaolo +

**Wednesday, January 25**

Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

7:00 AM Maria Loreta Lucchetti +

9:00 AM Pasqualina Messineo +

**Thursday, January 26**

Saints Timothy & Titus, bishops

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Roshan Pillai +

**Friday, January 27**

Weekday

7:00 AM Amadeu Amorim +

9:00 AM Joe Power +

**Saturday, January 28**

Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest & doctor of the Church

9:00 AM Pedro Moran +

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**Saturday, January 28 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

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**Sunday, January 29**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

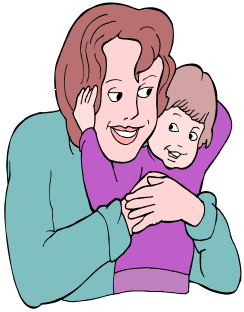
8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM Marie Caloia +

11:30 AM Clement Giuriceo +

5:00 PM Michael Petnuck +

39<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ROE vs. WADE – WHAT A TRAGEDY!



As we celebrate the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling on Abortion (the Roe v Wade case) this Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, we think of the adverse effects the practice of abortion is having on us as individuals and as a society.

Reproduced below is a discussion of one of the issues included in the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Political Responsibility Statement:

“Human life is a gift from God which all of us are called to protect, nurture, and sustain. The right to life, the most basic of all human rights, must be protected by law. Abortion has become the fundamental human rights issue of our day because it is the deliberate destruction of a human being before birth.

The United States, avowedly a defender of the weak, has one of the highest legal abortion rates and the most extreme abortion policy of any industrialized Western nation in the world. There are now more than 1.5 million abortions every year in the United States, over 4,400 a day, with well over 95 percent performed for economic or social reasons. Thousands of unborn children are killed each year in the final months of pregnancy.

We support policies and laws that encourage childbirth over abortion, and urge government and the private sector to provide programs that assist pregnant women and their children, especially those who are poor. We support efforts to prohibit domestic and foreign abortion funding, as well as efforts to protect states from having to fund abortions contrary to their own laws. We reject the 1973 Supreme Court abortion decisions which deny legal protection to unborn children, and we support efforts to prohibit or restrict abortion legislatively and to provide constitutional protection for unborn human life. Laws and policies on medical research, health care, and related issues must respect and protect human life from the moment of conception.”

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**Prayer to End Abortion**

Lord God, I thank You today for the gift of my life,  
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.  
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,  
Yet I rejoice that You have conquered death  
by the Resurrection of Your Son.  
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.  
Today I commit myself  
Never to be silent,  
Never to be passive,  
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.  
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,  
And never to stop defending life  
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,  
And our nation once again becomes  
A nation with liberty and justice  
Not just for some, but for all,  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

